

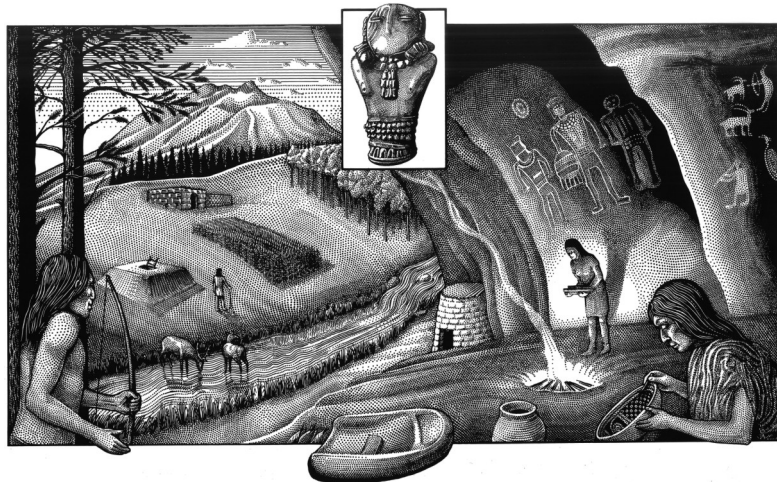
Fremont Figurines

The Fremont people were a prehistoric culture who lived in the eastern Great Basin and along the west edge of the Colorado Plateau. They lived between 1,000 years to 2,500 years ago. Archaeologists named this culture because some of the first sites were discovered by the Fremont River in Utah.

Life for Fremont people varied from place to place. Some farmed, some hunted and gathered, some lived in villages, and some were dispersed in isolated areas.

As the climate changed, the people changed too. Archaeologists believe that the Fremont might have left because of new tribes moving onto their lands. Or perhaps the Fremont might have even been absorbed into these other tribes and lived with them.

The Fremont left behind rock art, grinding stones, stone tools, pottery, pit houses, and clay figurines. These figures resemble the rock art they pecked or painted into stone walls. They are made of unfired clay and are adorned with hair and jewelry. Even though they are thousands of years old, we can still see that they had paint on them!



Depiction of Fremont culture. Drawing by Brad Wolverton, 2011.

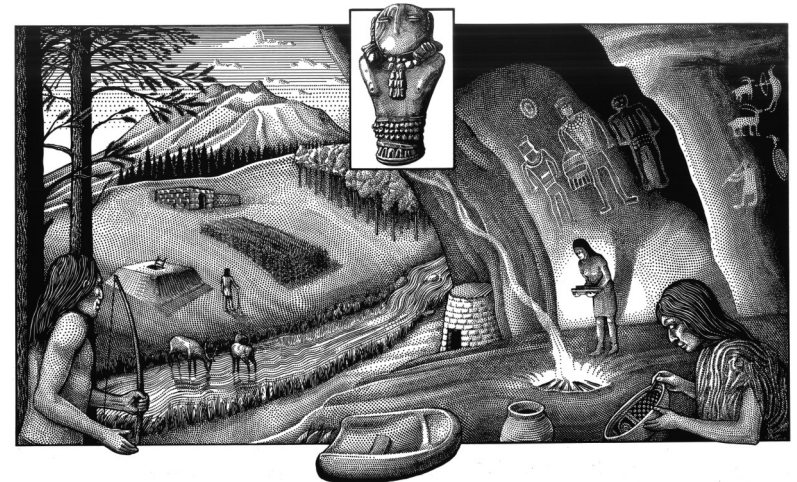
Fremont Figurines

The Fremont people were a prehistoric culture who lived in the eastern Great Basin and along the west edge of the Colorado Plateau. They lived between 1,000 years to 2,500 years ago. Archaeologists named this culture because some of the first sites were discovered by the Fremont River in Utah.

Life for Fremont people varied from place to place. Some farmed, some hunted and gathered, some lived in villages, and some were dispersed in isolated areas.

As the climate changed, the people changed too. Archaeologists believe that the Fremont might have left because of new tribes moving onto their lands. Or perhaps the Fremont might have even been absorbed into these other tribes and lived with them.

The Fremont left behind rock art, grinding stones, stone tools, pottery, pit houses, and clay figurines. These figures resemble the rock art they pecked or painted into stone walls. They are made of unfired clay and are adorned with hair and jewelry. Even though they are thousands of years old, we can still see that they had paint on them!



Depiction of Fremont culture. Drawing by Brad Wolverton, 2011.

The Pilling Figurines

The story of the Pilling Figurines is a unique tale about an already unique set of artifacts.

The 11 figurines were discovered in 1950 at Range Creek, Utah by Clarence Pilling. During a traveling exhibit in the 1960s one of the figurines went missing. It wasn't noticed until the collection returned to the museum.

In 2011 USU anthropologist Bonnie Pitblado received a package with the missing figurine! It had a note which said:

Sometime between 1978 and 1982 I came into possession of this piece by way of a vagabond acquaintance. He had told of 'acquiring' it near Vernal, Utah. I have great interest and respect for this continent's native culture and have always hoped to somehow return this to wherever it had come from. ... I am very excited at the prospect of it being returned to its proper place.

The figurine was put through a variety of scientific tests to make sure it was the actual artifact and not a clever replica. It turned out to be the missing figurine, or at least one very similar.

You can go see this same collection of figurines at the USU Eastern Prehistoric Museum in Price.



For more information visit history.utah.gov

The Pilling Figurines

The story of the Pilling Figurines is a unique tale about an already unique set of artifacts.

The 11 figurines were discovered in 1950 at Range Creek, Utah by Clarence Pilling. During a traveling exhibit in the 1960s one of the figurines went missing. It wasn't noticed until the collection returned to the museum.

In 2011 USU anthropologist Bonnie Pitblado received a package with the missing figurine! It had a note which said:

Sometime between 1978 and 1982 I came into possession of this piece by way of a vagabond acquaintance. He had told of 'acquiring' it near Vernal, Utah. I have great interest and respect for this continent's native culture and have always hoped to somehow return this to wherever it had come from. ... I am very excited at the prospect of it being returned to its proper place.

The figurine was put through a variety of scientific tests to make sure it was the actual artifact and not a clever replica. It turned out to be the missing figurine, or at least one very similar.

You can go see this same collection of figurines at the USU Eastern Prehistoric Museum in Price.



For more information visit history.utah.gov